



# **Biowaste Disposal and Utilization**

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# Where It All Started

## ✓ Prior to 2000

- Access to rendering facilities was becoming limited on Colorado's Western Slope
- County landfills were inconsistent on their acceptance and definition of packing plant offal's and "tipping fees" became prohibitive
- Restaurant grease, offal's and supermarket waste became a liability to entities rather than an asset



# Where It All Started

## ✓ **August 27, 2001**

- An informative meeting was held at the Colorado Department of Agriculture to discuss, clarify and explore this issue, later termed “Biowaste Disposal”

## ✓ **November 8, 2001**

- In the Grand Valley a meeting was held to discuss the impact of Grand Valley Byproducts closing

## ✓ **November 15, 2001**

- A follow-up meeting of a smaller working group was convened to further pursue solutions to this issue and concluded that data on the volume, type and annual cycles of “Biowaste” were needed to move forward



# Where It All Started

## ✓ **December 13, 2001**

- The working group reconvened to discuss potential sources of financial support

## ✓ **March 14, 2001**

- The working group agreed that a showing of “interest” from the private sector would aid in securing funding to pursue research

## ✓ **March 18, 2001**

- A letter was drafted and sent to Colorado Commodity and Allied Industry groups asking for support



# The Issues in Colorado

Estimated annual volume of dead livestock in Colorado (NASS, 2001)

	Inventory	Mortality	Potential Volume
Cattle	3,150,000	3 – 6 %	94,500 – 189,000
Hogs	840,000	3 – 6 %	25,000 – 50,400
Sheep	420,000	7 – 10 %	29,400 – 42,000
Horses	145,000	3 – 5 %	4,350 – 7,250

- **US Statistics for 2000 (Sparks Companies, 2002)**
  - ✓ 22.9 million Cattle, Hogs, Sheep and Goats
  - ✓ 3.0 billion pounds of mammalian livestock mortalities



# Current Efforts

- ✓ **Study Funded by the Colorado Department of Higher Education**
  - **Action Point I –History and Scope of the Issue**
  - **Action Point II –Raw Material Consist and Volume**
  - **Action Point III –Colorado Biowaste Utilization Strategy Workshop (C-BUS)**
  - **Action Point IV –Solutions and Feasibility of C-BUS**
- ✓ **Slated for Completion December 2003**



# Areas of Support

## ✓ **Current Financial Resources**

- Colorado Association of Meat Processors
- Colorado Department of Higher Education

## ✓ **Next Steps**

- Evaluate current disposal technologies
  - ✓ Safety
  - ✓ Sustainability
  - ✓ Economic Feasibility
- Deliver Viable Technologies to the Industry